

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 QUITO 00989 101758Z

43

ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 ARAE-00 SSO-00 SS-15 L-02 SCS-03 EB-07

COA-01 SCA-01 H-01 INR-07 DLOS-03 PRS-01 CG-00

DOTE-00 PA-01 USIE-00 /053 W

----- 096049

P R 101646Z FEB 75

FM AMEMBASSY QUITO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 4389

INFO AMCONSUL GUAYAQUIL

AMEMBASSY LIMA

AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO

C O N F I D E N T I A L QUITO 0989

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: EFIS, PFOR, EC

SUBJECT: FISHING DISPUTE WITH ECUADOR

S/S-O PLEASE PASS TO D, ARA, L

1. BEGIN CONFIDENTIAL. OVER THE LAST WEEKEND, THREE IDEOLOGICALLY DIVERSE NEWSPAPERS PUBLISHED EDITORIALS WHICH, BECAUSE OF THEIR RELATIVELY NON-POLEMICAL DISCUSSION OF THE 200-MILE LIMIT/FISHING DISPUTE, WE BELIEVE TO HAVE BEEN INSPIRED BY HIGH POLICY-MAKING LEVELS WITHIN THE GOE. THEIR TONE VERY MUCH AGREES WITH THE SPECIFIC EFFORT THE GOE UNDER-TOOK (WITH PRESIDENTIAL SPOKESMAN CARLOS AGUIRRE'S STATEMENT TO THE PRESS, REPORTED IN QUITO 786) TO MAKE CLEAR THAT THE FISHING BOAT SEIZURES WERE NOT IN REPRISAL FOR THE TRADE REFORM ACT SANCTIONS. THE PRINCIPAL POINTS ARE THREE, AND ALL THREE EDITORIALS MAKE THEM IN ONE FASHION OR ANOTHER: (A) ECUADOR HAS ESPoused THE 200-MILE THESIS IN ORDER TO PROTECT A NATIONAL RESOURCE, AN ATTITUDE WHICH IT BELIEVES IS JUST AND SANCTIONED BY INTERNATIONAL LAW AND FROM WHICH IT HAS NO INTENTION OF BUDGING; (B) AN INCREASING NUMBER OF COUNTRIES SHARE THIS POSITION, MOST RECENTLY THE UNITED STATES, AS MANIFESTED BY THE US SENATE'S CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 QUITO 00989 101758Z

ACTION LAST SESSION, AND EXPLICITLY WITH THE US-BRAZILIAN

AGREEMENT GOVERNING SHRIMPING WITHIN THE 200-MILE BRAZILIAN
LIMIT; (C) ECUADOR'S STRONG COMMERCIAL AND CULTURAL TIES
WITH THE UNITED STATES ARE FACTS OF LIFE DICTATED BY
GEOGRAPHY AND ECONOMICS, AND THE SOONER THE CURRENT FISHING
DISPUTE IS RESOLVED BY ADDITIONAL US FISHERMEN ASKING ECUADOR'S
PERMISSION TO EXPLOIT HER RESOURCES, THE SOONER WE CAN
GET BACK TO THE NORMALLY FRIENDLY AND PRODUCTIVE RELATIONSHIP
WHICH CHARACTERIZES TIES BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES. END
CONFIDENTIAL.

BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED

2. EL COMERCIO'S EDITORIAL ENTITLED "MARITIME JURISDICTION",
BEGINS "BRAZIL AND THE UNITED STATES HAVE JUST SIGNED AN
AGREEMENT COVERING SHRIMP FISHING WITHIN THE 200-MILE BRAZILIAN
TERRITORIAL SEA, WHICH WILL RUN UNTIL 1977. BEGINNING IN 1978,
BRAZIL WILL ALLOW NO FOREIGN SHIPS TO FISH IN HER WATERS. THE
ACCORD IS A CLEAR, UNMISTAKABLE ACKNOWLEDGEMENT ON THE PART
OF THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT THAT BRAZILIAN SOVEREIGNTY
EXTENDS TO THE 200-MILE LIMIT, CONCURRING WITH THE ACTION
ALREADY PARTLY APPROVED BY THE UNITED STATES TO
EXTEND AMERICAN JURISDICTION TO THE SAME 200 MILES. WHY
THEN DOES THE UNITED STATES DENY THIS SAME RIGHT TO ECUADOR?"

3. EL TIEMPO'S EDITORIAL, "ON THE SEIZURE OF FISHING
BOATS", NOTES THAT THE US FISHING VESSELS HAVE BROUGHT
INTO FOCUS THE DISPUTE BETWEEN COUNTRIES WHICH CLAIM A
200-MILE TERRITORIAL SEA AND THOSE WHO DO NOT. "THE SIGNI-
FICANT THING IS THAT THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES HAS
ALREADY GONE ON RECORD IN FAVOR OF RESERVING FOR THE UNITED
STATES THE SAME 200-MILE TERRITORIAL SEA. WHAT IS UNCONS-
CIONABLE IS THE ATTITUDE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE WHICH
APPEARS TO ENCOURAGE AMERICAN FISHERMEN NOT TO BUY FISHING
LICENSES. THIS IS TANTAMOUNT TO PROVOKING THE FISHERMEN
TO DISOBEY THE LAW. THE FISHERMEN THEN INVADE OUR WATERS
AND QUOTE THE STATE DEPARTMENT'S ATTITUDE AS JUSTIFICATION
FOR THEIR ILLEGAL ACTIVITIES. AND IT IS STILL MORE GRAVE
WHEN THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT REIMBURSES THE FISHERMEN
FOR THE FINES, THEREBY ALLOWING THEM TO ACT WITH IMPUNITY
BECAUSE THEY DON'T STAND TO LOSE A CENT FOR THEIR ACTIVITIES.
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 QUITO 00989 101758Z

THIS STATE OF AFFAIRS SHOULD NOT BE ALLOWED TO CONTINUE.
THE SOONER (AMERICAN FISHERMEN) ACCEPT THE NEED TO COMPLY
WITH THE LAW, THE BETTER AND EASIER IT WILL BE TO AVOID
INCIDENTS WHICH POISON THE ATMOSPHERE BETWEEN OUR TWO
COUNTRIES."

4. EVEN GUAYAQUIL'S EXPRESO, NORMALLY SOMETHING OF A
US-BAITING PAPER, PUBLISHED A RELATIVELY MODERATE EDITORIAL

ON FEBRUARY 8 ENTITLED "EUCADOR AND THE 200 MILES". CONGRATULATING THE GOE ON ITS STEADFAST DEFENSE OF ECUADOR'S NATIONAL INTERESTS, IT SAYS " WE MUST CELEBRATE AS WELL A TRIUMPH WHICH NO ONE WOULD HAVE SUSPECTED POSSIBLE FOR OUR COUNTRY TO ACHIEVE, THAT IS TO SAY, THE ACKNOWLEDGEMENT BY THE UNITED STATES OF THE VALIDITY, AT LEAST IN PART, OF THE THESIS OF 200-MILES. SLOWLY BUT SURELY, THIS THESIS IS BEING ADOPTED BY MORE AND MORE NATIONS...

ECUADOR DOES NOT PRETEND TO ARROGATE UNTO ITSELF THE RIGHT TO PRECLUDE INTERNATIONAL FISHING FROM ITS OWN WATERS, BUT ASKS ONLY THAT ITS RIGHTS WITH RESPECT TO THE SEAS ADJACENT TO IT BE RECOGNIZED, A RECOGNITION WHICH CAN BE SATISFIED BY THE SIMPLE ACT OF OBTAINING ITS PERMISSION TO EXPLOIT THOSE RESOURCES. WE ARE SATISFIED THAT WE ARE ON THE ROAD TO REALIZING THESE ASPIRATIONS, AS WE MUST PROTECT OUR RELATIONS WITH THE UNITED STATES, A COUNTRY WITH WHICH, BECAUSE OF THE CIRCUMSTANCES OF ECONOMICS AND GEOGRAPHY, WE HAVE OUR CLOSEST AND MOST IMPORTANT COMMERCIAL AND CULTURAL TIES." AND IN A PERORATION WHICH MAY WELL HAVE BEEN DICTATED AT HIGHEST POLICY-MAKING LEVELS, THE EDITORIAL CONCLUDES "RESPECT BY ALL NATIONS FOR THE NORMS OF INTERNATIONAL LAW IS THE ONLY GUARANTEE OF RESPECT FOR INDIVIDUAL RIGHTS, EQUILIBRIUM, AND WORLD PEACE. THE CHANGE WHICH WE HAVE SEEN IN THE AMERICAN ATTITUDE IS A POSITIVE SYMPTOM, AND WE SHOULD RECEIVE IT WITH HEARTIEST APPLAUSE AND BEST WISHES."

BREWSTER

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptoning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: TERRITORIAL WATERS, PRESS COMMENTS, FISHING DISPUTES, BOUNDARY CLAIMS, TWO HUNDRED MILE LIMIT
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 10 FEB 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: GolinoFR
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975QUITO00989
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750048-0160
From: QUITO
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750257/aaaabzbu.tel
Line Count: 141
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION ARA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: GolinoFR
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 04 SEP 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <04 SEP 2003 by BoyleJA>; APPROVED <20 NOV 2003 by GolinoFR>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: FISHING DISPUTE WITH ECUADOR S/S-O PLEASE PASS TO D, ARA, L
TAGS: EFIS, PFOR, EC, US
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006